

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
August 14-15, 2006
Lake Marion High School, Santee, South Carolina

Monday, August 14

Members Present: Mr. Stowe, Chairman; Mr. Martin, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Benedict; Mr. DeLoach; Mr. Daniel; Rep. Cotty; Mr. Drew; Sen. Fair; Sen. Hayes; Mr. Hall; Mrs. Marlowe; Mrs. Murphy; Mr. Robinson; Rep. Walker

Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the EOC meeting. He introduced Dr. David Longshore, Superintendent, Orangeburg School District Three. Dr. Longshore addressed the committee and detailed the community the district serves, the opportunities and challenges before the school district. About 90 percent of the district students are eligible for free-reduced fee lunches. Dr. Longshore detailed the facilities development plan for the district and the incorporation of technology into its instruction. He offered a number of suggestions for increasing the teacher pool in rural, high-poverty or under-performing schools:

- Differentiated salary structures
- Poverty endorsement on the teaching certificate
- Granting 1.5 years retirement credit for every year taught in high poverty schools
- Tuition supplements to teacher salaries that can be used by the teacher or his/her child
- Tuition supplements for teachers whose students attend school in the district in which the teacher is employed
- Replacement income for teacher aides to complete certification

And with respect to schools generally, he recommended the following:

- Flexible funding streams at the district level
- Stable facilities funding
- Discontinuance of rating districts

Senator John Matthews welcomed members and guests and reminded them that education is the gateway from poverty to prosperity. Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter welcomed the EOC and asked them to examine the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) supplement and consider focusing it on the schools and districts in greatest need of teachers.

Rose Brower, principal of Lake Marion High School (LMHS), welcomed members and guests and oriented them to the school and to the program.

General Population Survey

Mr. Stowe introduced Frank Brown, MarketSearch. Dr. Brown presented the results of the 2006 general population survey. The EOC intends to release the survey results in September. In general the survey identified positive shifts in resident perceptions of public education in South Carolina as well as support for ideas emphasizing non-traditional teaching and diversity. The EOC is to release the survey results in September. Dr. Brown's power point is available from the EOC offices.

Goals for the Retreat

Mr. Stowe outlined goals for the retreat. He indicated that he hoped we could accomplish the following:

- Clear discussion of the 2010 goal and how to create urgency so that the progress is accelerated;
- Discussion of the graduation rate, its calculation and establishment of targets
- Creation of urgency to improve student performance
- Establishment of EOC objectives for 2006-2007

The 2010 Goal

Mr. Stowe asked members to discuss, within subcommittee groups, the 2010 goal and our progress to achieve that goal as well as its measurement and communication. After small and large group discussion, the EOC agreed that we should maintain a focus on the goal; however the reporting should be simplified and structured to distinguish between those measures upon which there are national comparisons and those which there are not. The presentation should be far simpler (technical detail can be provided on the agency website). Dr. Anderson is to provide members with a draft one-page presentation of SC progress.

Graduation Rate

Mr. Potter reviewed the various calculations of graduation rate and SC's rankings among the calculations with members. There were questions regarding the inclusion of home-school students, a five-year rate, and establishment of the 88.3 percent as the state target. Members asked for information on each of these as well as a comparison among South Carolina and ten states currently using the adopted NGA methodology.

Would You Support?

Members discussed a set of innovation proposals which included:

- School-community service centers
- Public school choice innovation schools
- Shared administrative services
- Compensation packages for teachers

The EOC went into recess for dinner to reconvene at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, August 15.

Tuesday, August 15

Members Present: Mr. Stowe, Chairman; Mr. Martin, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Benedict; Mr. DeLoach; Mr. Daniel; Rep. Cotty; Mr. Drew; Sen. Fair; Sen. Hayes; Mr. Hall; Mrs. Marlowe; Mr. Robinson; Rep. Walker

Mr. Robinson distributed a publication, *Whatever It Takes*, developed by the Charleston Education Network. The publication outlines a series of integrated reforms to move South Carolina's student achievement forward.

School Funding

Mrs. Barton presented materials with information on the current allocations of state funds to districts and schools including the allocation methodology, information on the General Fund revenues for education and the school finance trends across the nation. Members discussed the Fordham Institute document, *Fund the Child*, as well as a number of issues including the role and cost of district administration and issues of money solving problems leading to a general agreement that money is necessary but not sufficient for high achievement. There was some discussion of teacher salaries and methods to entice teachers into particular responsibilities.

2006-2007 Objectives

Working in subcommittees, members developed proposals for annual objectives. The ideas are to be organized and structured by staff, then sent to members for reaction before September 1.

Business Meeting

The minutes of June 12 were approved as distributed.

Mr. DeLoach reported on behalf of the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee. He summarized the recommendations regarding revisions to the mathematics content standards and asked for approval. The recommendations were approved as distributed.

Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee. He asked for approval of the 4K evaluation plan and presented members with information on the consultation with the State Department of Education and the Office of First Steps as outlined in the proviso. The evaluation plan was approved as presented.

Mr. Martin indicated that the Public Awareness Subcommittee did not have a report, but reminded members that there were vacancies on the community meeting schedule.

Mrs. Marlowe asked if there was interest in changing the meeting schedule; there was no consensus to change.

The EOC moved into Executive Session to consider a personnel matter.

The veil was lifted from Executive Session. Mr. Martin moved that Dr. Anderson's compensation be increased in accordance with other state employees. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned.